



April 7, 2011

To the State of Delaware:

On behalf of the people of Miyagi Prefecture, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Governor Jack Markell and First Lady Carla Markell, Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn, President Pro Tempore of the Senate Anthony J. DeLuca, Speaker of the House Robert Gilligan, Senate Minority Leader F. Gary Simpson, House Minority Leader Gregory F. Lavelle and City of Dover Mayor Carleton E. Carey Sr. for hosting this luncheon to raise money for recovery efforts in Miyagi Prefecture. The efforts Delaware is carrying out for Miyagi is a testament to the deep bond we have as sister-states. During these difficult times, many people from around the world have sent their condolences and support. In particular, the words of encouragement we received from Governor Markell and the people of Delaware have given us courage to face the challenges brought on by this disaster.

As you are all aware, a massive earthquake – one that Japan had never experienced before – struck off the coast of Miyagi on March 11. To date, more than 7,300 lives have perished and more than 6,600 are missing in Miyagi Prefecture alone. Approximately 58,000 victims continue to live in evacuation centers, some still without the essential, public utilities. Along our coastal region, there were towns completely destroyed. It is hard for me to believe the state of our prefecture.

Amid the confusion in the devastated areas, the people of Delaware, and many others throughout the world, have provided relief that will give us the ability to rebuild. The people of our prefecture have prepared themselves, as the road to complete recovery will take years. However, it is my promise to carry out every effort, together with our citizens, to restore our region. Miyagi Prefecture will grow stronger. During and after this restoration process, our trusting relationship with you will be even greater and it is my hope for our mutual exchange as sister-states to flourish even more. I ask for your continued support as we embark on this long journey.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yoshihiro Murai".

Yoshihiro Murai  
Governor  
Miyagi Prefecture